

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AIRPORT COMMITTEE

February 25, 2022

The Airport Committee of the Burke County Board of Commissioners met on Friday, February 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Training Room. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Evans Martin. Committee members Tommy Nix along with County Manager Merv Waldrop, Assistant County Manager Adam Flakes were present. Commissioner Art Lively, Amanda Hill, Tim Fredlund, Olha Karikh, and Brian Walden of MaesAwyr joined via Zoom.

Tim Fredlund provided an update on the fuel facility stating tanks are projected to arrive mid-March. He recommended the process to procure fuel begin. Commissioner Martin inquired if the facility will be operational for The Masters Tournament in April. Mr. Fredlund stated that was the goal, however, Manager Waldrop stated he would like to have a month or two prior to being fully operational.

Updates on obstruction clearances were then discussed. Mr. Fredlund stated the obstructions that are currently being addressed are tied to the ATM and Joyner property acquisitions. The ATM acquisition is moving forward and waiting on an updated plat to finalize the Purchase Agreement which should be available for the Commissioner's March meeting for approval. ATM will be clearing their own property. Ms. Hill stated the Joyner property acquisition will take longer due to the owner not wanting to relocate, but to begin negotiations on establishing a life estate. Once this agreement is approved, the obstructions will be removed.

Wetland Elimination updates were then discussed. Mr. Fredlund stated the study from the USDA Wildlife Services has been received and forwarded to the Corp of Engineers for the Regional Permit. He stated they are working with the information on the wildlife study to draft the final version of the Environmental Data Evaluation for GDOT. Manager Waldrop stated Reeves Construction may be the better option to complete the work as there are still funds on the contract.

Mr. Fredlund then discussed hanger project updates. Mr. Fredlund shared an updated exhibit of the hanger project layout showing private access road with gate controls and parking, beacon and vault relocation, and growth expansion areas. He expects the design to be completed by the end of March or into April to stay ahead of the GDOT funding expirations.

Mr. Fredlund they are ready to advance to Phase I and II of the fencing project. GDOT has some concerns with Phase III so an Endangered Species survey will need to be performed. Fencing design should be completed by end of March, first part of April and should be able to advance to bidding the project by April.

Mr. Fredlund stated there is nothing new to report on the AWOS. Once the ATM acquisition is complete and obstructions are removed, conversations will be had with GDOT about advancing the AWOS project. The siting has already been approved by the FAA. This project is eligible for Federal funding with a 5% local match. Ms. Hill stated Burke County has Entitlement funds

available for use and discussion needs to be had for the most optimal allocation of them for priority projects.

Discussion was then held on the closeout of the taxiway / runway project. Mr. Fredlund stated he believed most information has been received from Pond. Brian Walden, MaesAwyr, stated Pond still needs to supply CAD files, which have been requested. The retainage reimbursement request has been sent to GDOT.

New funding opportunities from GDOT were then discussed. Mr. Fredlund explained the BIL, Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation, that was enacted Fall 2021. Airports have received their own allocation which is a five-year program. In addition to the \$150,000 that Burke County receives in federal entitlement funding, there will be an additional \$110,000 / year over the next five years, with both GDOT and local match of 5%. This funding can be rolled over year to year, to fund a larger project but must be used within the five-year period. GDOT has requested an updated CIP to reflect any project priority changes and to reflect the allocation of both the federal entitlement monies as well as the BIL funding. Committee consensus was to move the terminal project up in priority on the CIP and apply for the BIL funding, which needs submitted to the FAA by March 28th. Mr. Fredlund discussed the BIL stipulations stating funding can be used for fencing, hangers, but not against the fuel farm. Ms. Hill discussed how the CIP would best be modified to specifically address how funding would be utilized.

Commissioner Martin inquired about a thru-fencing agreement with the adjacent property owner and if that needs to be handled prior to the fencing project commencing. Discussion was held if it may be best to consider acquisition of the property. Ms. Hill stated that should acquisition occur, it would have to conform to aeronautical use rather quickly. Mr. Martin confirmed the fuel farm and ATM acquisition is priority with hanger, fencing and AWOS following.

Discussion was then had on hanger leasing, chemical storage, and aesthetic concerns. Ms. Hill stated the County should look to prepare minimum standard agreements initially and expand on them based on the vision of the Airport.

Being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

R. Tommy Nix

Evans Martin

Q. U. "Art" Lively

Merv Waldrop, County Manager